



H.R. 4179 – Fair, Accurate, Secure and Timely Redress Act of 2007

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 4179 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Yvette Clarke (D-NY) on November 14, 2007. The bill was reported, as amended, by voice vote by the Committee on Homeland Security on June 5, 2008.

H.R. 4179 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on June 18, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 4179 amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-296) to authorize the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to establish an appeals and redress process for individuals who claim to have been misidentified when screened against any terrorist watchlist or database utilized by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) or the Department. The Secretary is further directed to establish an Office of Appeals and Redress to implement and execute this process.

This bill requires the Office of Appeals and Redress to maintain a comprehensive list of individuals who were misidentified against any terrorist watchlist or database. The Secretary is required to transmit such list to TSA or any other appropriate agency or air carrier that uses such terrorist watchlist or database, as long as such agency or air carrier utilizes a terrorist watchlist or database.

H.R. 4179 requires the Secretary to ensure that Department employees complete privacy and security training before being authorized to handle any Personally Identifiable Information (PII).

H.R. 4179 directs the Secretary to engage in necessary agreements with appropriate Federal agencies to ensure that legal name changes are reflected in the terrorist watchlist and the Comprehensive Cleared List. This legislation also requires the Office of Appeals and Redress to provide written information and guidance to air carrier passengers to begin the appeal and redress process at every airport with a DHS presence.

Within 240 days of enactment, the Secretary must submit a report to Congress on the status of information sharing at the Department relating to any terrorist watchlist or database.

BACKGROUND

The Implementing 9/11 Commission Recommendations Act (P.L. 110-53) authorized the establishment of an Office of Appeal and Redress within the Department of Homeland Security. The Office has established a process, The Traveler Redress Inquiry Program, which places "cleared" individuals on the Transportation Security Administration's cleared list. This list is not currently shared with other Department component agencies, or other Federal agencies and partners.

COST

The Congressional Budget office estimates that "implementing H.R. 4179 would cost \$3 million in 2009 and about \$500,000 annually thereafter, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts." [Full CBO Cost Estimate](#)

STAFF CONTACT

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